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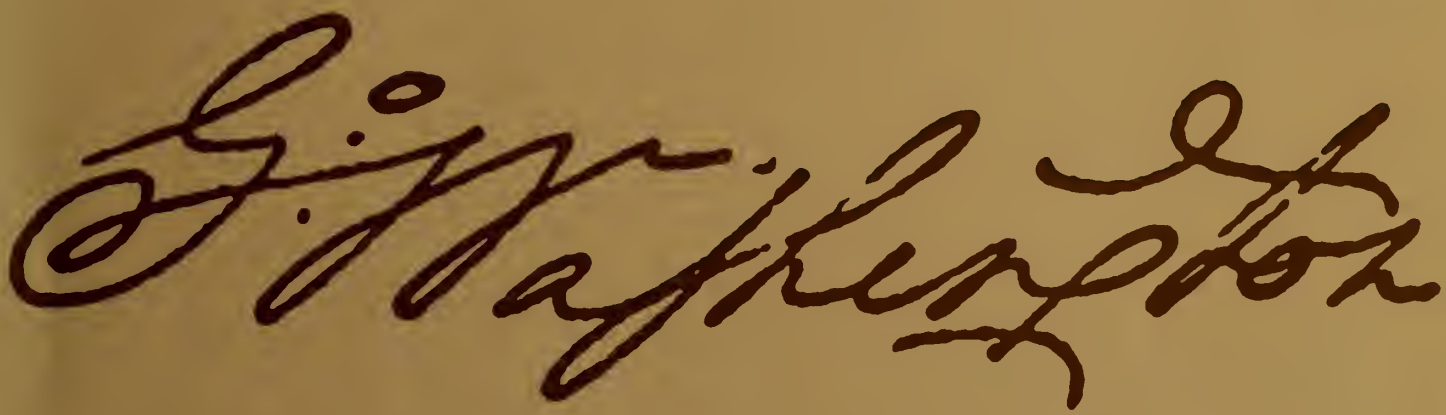

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A Master Plan for

GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL MONUMENT

THOMAS JEFFERSON ON GEORGE WASHINGTON

"His integrity was most pure, his injustice the most inflexible I have ever known, no motives . . . of friendship or hatred being able to bias his decision. He was, indeed, in every sense of the words, a wise, a good, and a great man. . . . His heart was not warm in its affections; but he exactly calculated every man's value and gave him a solid esteem proportioned to it. . . . Although in the circle of his friends . . . he took a free share in conversation, his colloquial talents were not above mediocrity, possessing neither copiousness of ideas, nor fluency of words. . . . Yet he wrote readily, rather diffusely, in an easy and correct style. . . . On the whole, his character was, in its mass, perfect, in nothing bad, in few points indifferent; and it may truly be said, that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great, and to place him in the same constellation with whatever worthies have merited from man an everlasting remembrance. For his was the singular destiny and merit, of leading the armies of his country successfully through an arduous war, for the establishment of its independence; of conducting its councils through the birth of a government, new in its forms and principles, until it had settled down into a quiet and orderly train; and of scrupulously obeying the laws through the whole of his career, civil and military, of which the history of the world furnishes no other example. . . ."

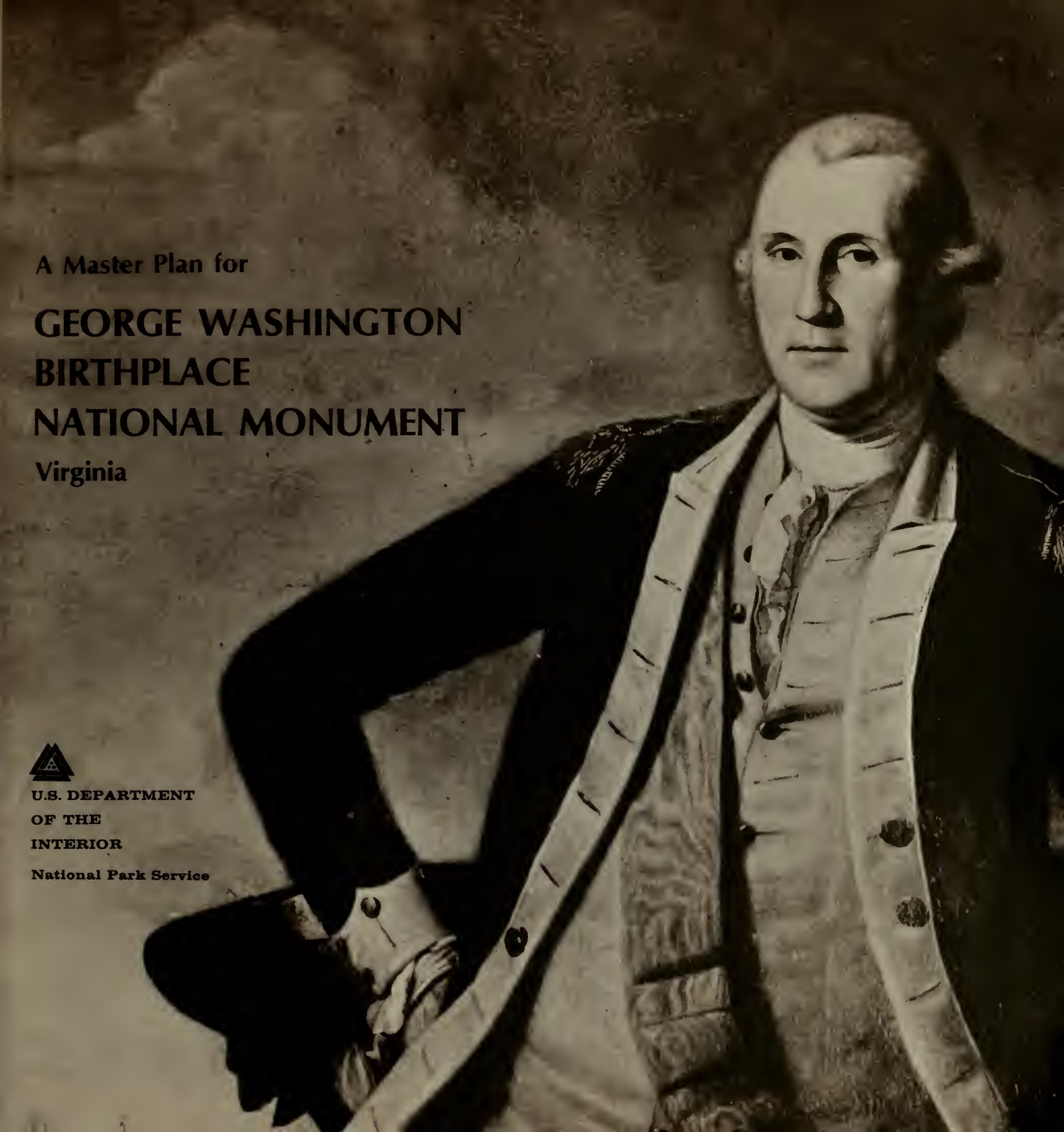
[1814]

Portrait by Charles Willson Peale

A Master Plan for

GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Virginia



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE
INTERIOR

National Park Service

Past and present: an early 18th-century surveying instrument, overlooking Popes Creek.

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The family cemetery at Bridges Creek contains, among 32 burials, the graves of Washington's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

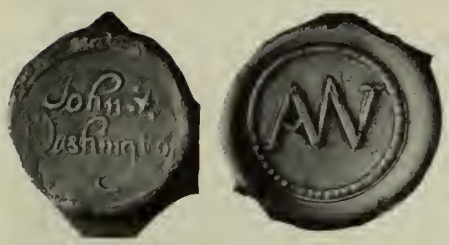
In 1930, nearly two centuries after the birth of George Washington, Congress designated 394 acres along Popes Creek in Westmoreland County, Va., as the George Washington Birthplace National Monument. This act was a fitting culmination to the preservation efforts of a number of public-spirited organizations and individuals, dating back to 1815 when George Washington Parke Custis marked the birthplace site, then in ruins, with a stone slab.

The monument today is the product of almost four decades of development and operation by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, in cooperation with the Wakefield National Memorial Association. Where once there were only the ancient Washington cemetery, a granite shaft, and a handful of buried foundations, there are now a Memorial House, built by the association on the approximate site of the original birthplace house, a colonial-style kitchen, landscaped grounds, assorted visitor facilities, and an extensive artifact collection. And each year almost 100,000 persons visit these historic grounds.

Much has been accomplished in the past. Much more remains to be done if the National Park Service is effectively to fulfill its commitment to commemorate the birth and early boyhood of George Washington and to present the story of his formative years against the background influences of his family, his region, and his times.

This master plan is a generalized statement, subject to revision from time to time, that will guide the preservation, development, use, interpretation, and administration of the National Monument and assure continuity of purpose and effort.

Scenes at the monument today: (clockwise) the grounds near the Memorial House; natural conditions close to Bridges Creek; the Colonial Garden; visitors touring the outbuildings.



Bottle seals unearthed here.

The following objectives will guide the management of the National Monument.

Resource Conservation

1. Conduct the historical, archeological, and natural history research necessary to guide the interpretation and preservation of the Washington farm and the selection of sites for development.

2. Stabilize and preserve the ruins of historic structures and, if considered desirable, reconstruct certain historic structures as evidence of the presence here of the Washington family and George Washington.

3. Continue to preserve and manage the Memorial House as an example of a self-sufficient farm home of the first half of the 18th century.

4. Preserve and restore to the extent practical the historic ground cover and land uses of the farm during the historical period commemorated.

5. Preserve by acquisition, scenic easement, or other means the neighboring properties essential to maintaining the quality of the historical and natural scene.

6. Restrict new developments to sites which intrude the least on the birthplace site and the John Washington burial ground.

7. Develop and maintain historical collections, including artifacts and documentary materials, relevant to the interpretive theme, the significant values, and the research needs of the National Monument.

8. Cooperate with local organizations and State and other Federal agencies in preservation and conservation programs that will help the National Park Service protect the historic and scenic resources of the Washington farm.

Communication

1. Interpret Washington as a member of a moderately well-to-do family on a Tidewater Virginia farm. Emphasis should be placed on the English inheritance, early beginnings in America, family events up to Washington's birth on February 22, 1732, and his brief years in this environment. Important secondary themes are 18th-century farming here and that natural history which is relevant to the Washington story.

A place setting in the Memorial House.

2. Construct an interpretive facility near a point on Popes Creek southwest of the Memorial House, and develop a comprehensive interpretive program that will effectively convey to visitors through a variety of media the essential elements of the Washington story.

3. Improve methods and facilities for the initial contact with visitors.

4. Present the Memorial House and the Colonial Kitchen as period exhibits in themselves.

5. Continue personal interpretive services at the Memorial House and on the grounds to the greatest extent possible as a means of assuring a satisfactory experience for the majority of visitors.

6. Interpret natural history resources chiefly as they relate to the 18th-century scene that Washington knew.

7. Encourage educational groups and organizations to visit the National Monument by offering special services and programs.

8. Continue the presentation of programs about the National Monument and the National Park Service to schools, historical and conservation organizations, and other local groups through such media as off-site talks, educational radio and television, and traveling exhibits.

Visitor Use

1. Develop the National Monument as primarily a day-use area by providing the picnicking facilities and other services needed by visitors at a relatively isolated park.

2. Encourage the use of the monument's natural features by developing walking trails and sitting areas. The trails should lead to the shores of Popes Creek and the Potomac, passing through the woods and near the marshes.

3. Support the efforts of nearby communities and State and other Federal agencies to provide adequate visitor facilities for active recreation, especially swimming. Programs at the National Monument should emphasize visitor participation in interpretive, cultural, and quiet outdoor recreation activities.

The view over Popes Creek has changed little since Washington's day.

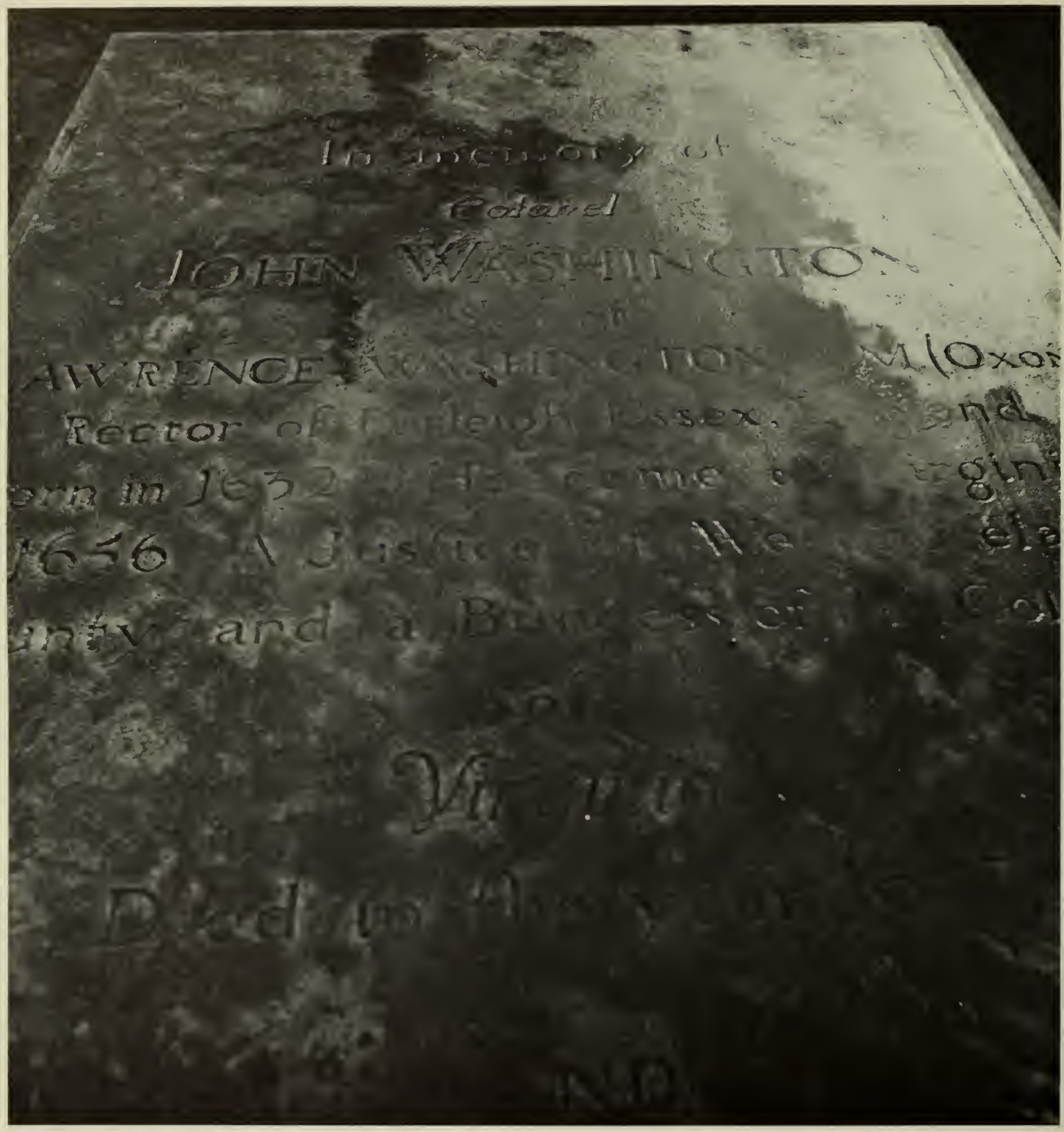
The edge of Popes Creek.

George Washington Birthplace National Monument is located on Virginia's Northern Neck, the peninsula formed by the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers as they flow into Chesapeake Bay. This is typical tidewater country. The land is low and flat. Branches unite to form creeks which often spread into marshlands as they near the river. At its tip, the peninsula is barely 25 miles wide from river to river. The monument lies some 40 miles upriver from the bay, at a point where the neck narrows to about 8 miles.

The Northern Neck is still predominately a rural area and retains much of an 18th-century atmosphere. Its towns and settlements are small, and there are no large industries. But for years its waters, beaches, and historic sites have attracted the traveling public. All of the neck is within easy driving distance of Baltimore, Md., Washington, D.C., Richmond, Va., and a host of cities and towns in between. Although tourism has so far spurred only a limited amount of development, it is still the Northern Neck's main source of income.

A patchwork of fields, marshes, scattered survivors of the original forest, and a mature second growth of mixed hardwoods and pines compose the monument. George Washington's birthplace stood on a promontory overlooking Popes Creek. Standing there today, on the highest ground in the monument, the visitor has a commanding view over the same waters.

Still waters mirror the marshland along Popes Creek, a scene which for visual and historical reasons should remain unchanged.



The gravestone of John Washington, founder of the family in Virginia and great-grandfather of George.

The Memorial House.

This small wedge of meadow, forest, and marsh, bounded by the waters of Popes Creek, Bridges Creek, and the Potomac, contains the plantation grounds and sites of a number of historic structures associated with the Washington family and the birth and boyhood of George Washington. Here is the heart of the plantation owned by Augustine Washington, George's father, the site of the house in which George was born, and the sites of various outbuildings characteristic of tidewater plantations of that day. A mile northwest, on the banks of Bridges Creek, stood the second home of John Washington, George's great-grandfather and the first Washington to settle on the Northern Neck. Only a short distance from that site is the Washington Family Burial Ground, holding the graves of the father, grandfather, and great-grandfather of George Washington and other early family members.

In 1718 Augustine Washington bought 150 acres along Popes Creek and a few years later began building a substantial brick dwelling on a rise about 200 feet inland from Popes Creek. The house was probably finished by 1726. It was here that George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, the son of Augustine and his second wife, Mary Ball. George only lived here for 3 1/2 years. In 1735 Augustine Washington took his family 50 miles up the Potomac to his Hunting Creek farm (now Mount Vernon). Four years later he moved again, this time to a farm across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg. When Augustine Washington died in 1743, the Popes Creek property passed on to Augustine Jr., George's half brother. Later, as a boy of 11, George returned to Popes Creek on visits of undetermined frequency and length, before beginning his career as surveyor, soldier, and farmer. The farm remained in the family, but during the American Revolution the birthplace home burned and was never rebuilt.

This is the central interpretive story at the monument. An important related theme is the general history of the Washington family, beginning with the coming of John Washington to these shores in the mid-17th century, his marriage, the building of his second home on Bridges Creek, and his services to King and colony. Both the family history and the formative years of George Washington are best understood when displayed against the social, cultural, religious, political, and agricultural background of 17th- and 18th-century tidewater Virginia.

The birthplace site is by far the most important historical resource at the monument. Its approximate location is marked by the Memorial House, a 1 1/2-story brick structure built in 1931. As the name suggests, the house is not a replica of the original. Because little authentic information was available at the time, the Wakefield National Memorial Association erected an early 18th-century-style dwelling, drawing upon existing period houses in the region for size, type of construction, and floor plans. There is a good possibility that the ruins uncovered by the Park Service in 1936 and designated as "Building X" are actually the foundations of the house in which George Washington was born. Archeological and historical studies, undertaken years ago but never finished, should be resumed to settle conclusively what is one of the most important historical questions about the monument.

The Colonial Kitchen, just west of the Memorial House, stands on the site of an 18th-century foundation which was first unearthed in 1896. Between the house and Popes Creek a colonial-style garden, with many plants common to Virginia gardens of the period, is laid out. The Memorial Shaft, put up by the Federal Government in 1896 to mark the birthplace site, was moved to its present location at the monument entrance when the Memorial House was built.

The artifact collection, gathered during the several archeological investigations, constitutes one of the monument's most valuable resources. It includes such items as wine bottle seals with the name of Washington's great-grandfather and the monogram of his father as well as a variety of household objects which illustrate the daily life of the Washington family. The best are displayed in temporary exhibits in the Colonial Kitchen.

An equally important resource in other hands are the records preserved in the office of the clerk of Westmoreland County. Unusually complete, they date back to the 17th century and have so far yielded a great deal of background information on the Washington family.

Although the monument is chiefly noted for its history, there are other resources present, as summarized below.

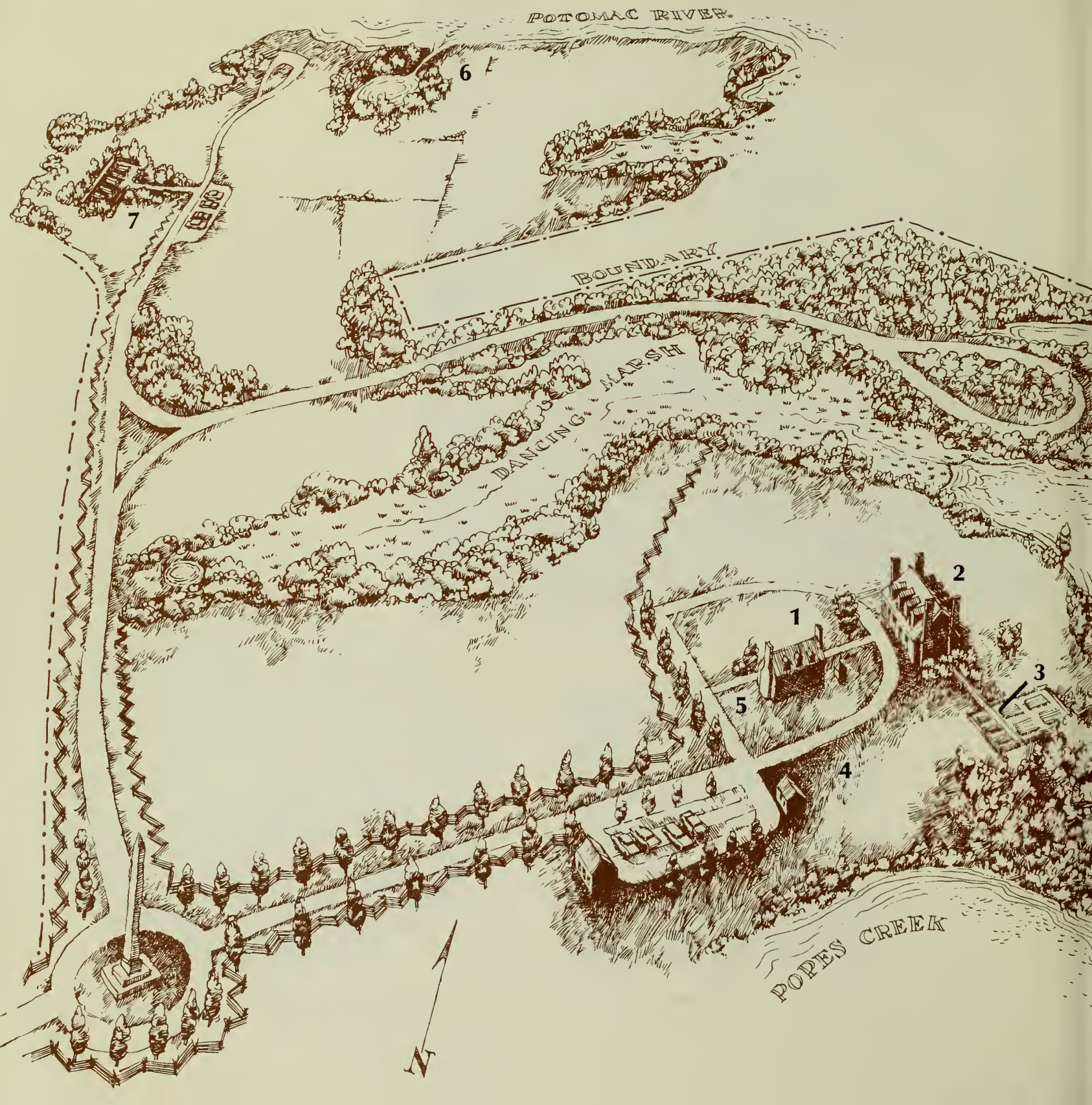
Wildlife The water areas around the monument are an important stopping place and wintering ground for waterfowl, among them whistling swans, geese, and ducks. The bald eagle can also be seen in the vicinity.

Special Scenic Features From many parts of the monument the view across Popes Creek and the Potomac is superb.

The ruins of "Building X" lie underground to the right of this tree.

Whistling swans, in flight here, and other waterfowl winter at the monument.

An 1872 painting of the last standing structure of Augustine Washington's plantation, the kitchen chimney. It fell a year later.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BOUNDARY
DANCING MARSH
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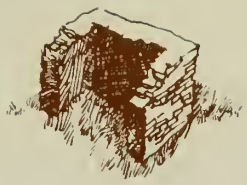
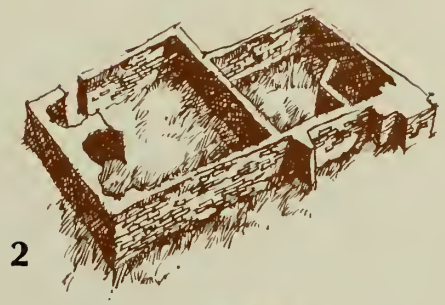
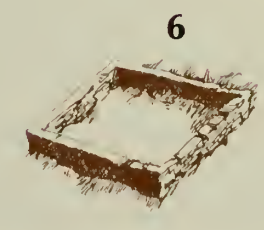
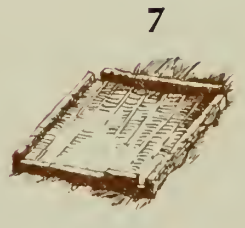
POPES CREEK
N









HISTORICAL RESOURCES

1. Foundation of an early 18th-century chimney, unearthed in 1896.
2. Foundation of an early 18th-century building, traditionally the one in which George Washington was born. Unearthed in 1896.
3. Foundation of a small brick structure, unearthed in 1936. Use unknown.
4. Foundation of an old structure known as "Building X," possibly the ruins of the birthplace house. Unearthed by the NPS in 1930; re-excavated in 1936.
5. Foundation of an early 18th-century building, probably a smoke house. Uncovered by the NPS in 1936.
6. Foundation of a 17th-century building located ¼ mile northeast of the burial ground. Uncovered in 1934.
7. Foundation of a building unearthed 180 feet southeast of the burial ground in 1930 and 1934. Probably an outbuilding.

In 1896 the Nation first marked the birthplace site with this granite shaft. It was later moved to the present location.

A survey of land near Bridges Creek by young Washington in 1747.

For a moderate investment at this monument, the National Park Service can achieve a number of broad educational and conservation objectives: an effective retelling of the Washington story, the display of land, ruins, and artifacts associated with the Washington family, the demonstration of farming practices in Washington's day, and the preservation of a stretch of the Potomac shore. The opportunities are many, and if the work is skillfully done, we should be able both to enjoy now and pass on to future generations a park in which history and nature can be pleasantly encountered. As the great urban centers to the north, west, and south, press onto the Northern Neck over the next decades, the value of this small park should become even more apparent.

How these objectives can be realized is the subject of this section of the Master Plan. The requirements fall into three broad categories: resource management, visitor use, and administration.

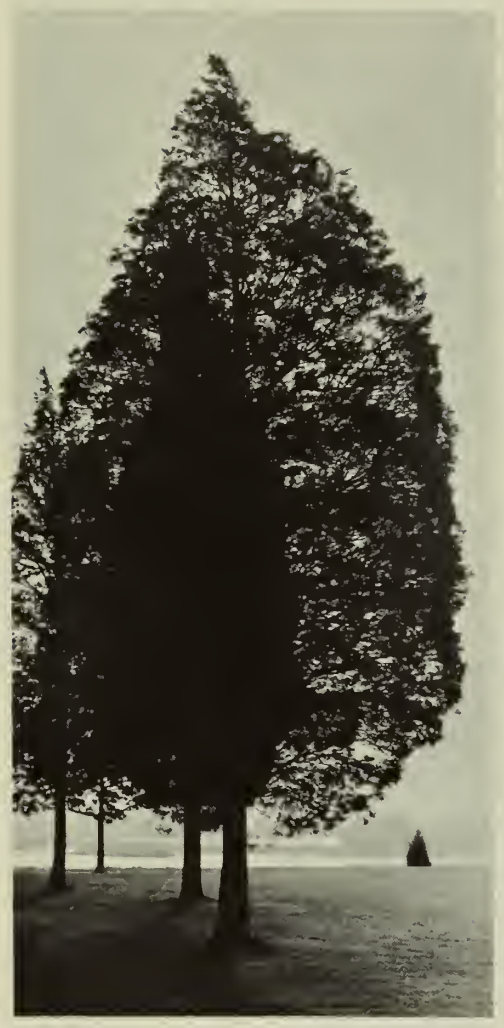
1. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Historic Scene

A major interpretive objective is to recreate authentically, insofar as possible, the farm scene at the time of Washington's birth. The Memorial House and the Colonial Kitchen—both period reconstructions on 18th-century foundations—and the Colonial Garden and a few other features, along with the natural glory of the land, suggest today a semblance of a colonial Virginia tidewater plantation. Yet there are grave deficiencies in the present scheme, whether the reconstructions are taken singly or considered as a whole. The exact site of the birthplace house has never been conclusively determined, and general data on the historical appearance of the farm is lacking. So far as is known, none of the reconstructions preserve any authentic historical features of the original plantation. Moreover, other buildings are so unfortunately designed and located as to be themselves intrusions.

Present efforts to preserve and maintain the natural and historical setting should continue as long as they do not conflict with new findings in history and archeology. Roads will be restricted to those necessary for visitor and administrative use.

Because sound preservation and interpretive programs must proceed from a reliable fund of knowledge, a comprehensive program of historical and archeological research should be carried out as soon as possible. The site, size, design, and character of the birthplace house and other physical features of the Augustine Washington plantation and the sites of other colonial farm houses and outbuildings must be determined, if at all possible. A Historic House Furnishings Plan should be prepared to guide the refurnishing of the Memorial House and the Colonial Kitchen with items appropriate to the times. When research is completed, the findings should be utilized to design a setting that is both historically consistent and aesthetically pleasing.



Cedars on Burnt House Point.

To avoid damage to any archeological resources that may be present, the planning and construction of the main Interpretive Facility should move forward only after salvage studies have been completed. The facility should not encroach on the plantation setting along Popes Creek; it should permit access to the main interpretive and scenic areas of the monument.

Some thought should be given to stabilizing and exhibiting the ruins of structures associated with the farms of both John and Augustine Washington.

Land-Use Controls

The Park Service has a vital interest in the use made of the water and land adjoining the monument. The private farming now being carried on nearby is compatible with the Service's objectives and should be encouraged to continue. But hunting and commercial development along Popes Creek are incompatible.

To insure the preservation of the rural scene, the land on both sides of Popes Creek, the land along the monument's western boundary, the interior properties bounded by monument lands and the Potomac River, and the land bordering Va. 204 between the future route of the George Washington Country Parkway and the monument entrance should be controlled by the Park Service. Several methods can be considered: acquisition and the lease or resale of certain rights, perpetual easements, county zoning, or any other practical arrangement.

The waters of Popes Creek fronting on the monument should be protected by either outright acquisition or by regulations developed jointly by the Park Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Use should be restricted to non-powered boats; all adverse uses, such as hunting, swimming, and commercial activities, should be eliminated.

An ecological study should be made of the wetlands along the upper reaches of Popes Creek. This study should determine what effect the disturbance of natural conditions along the headwaters would have on the ecology of the estuary. The study may lead to later recommendations for scenic easements or other controls over the wetlands.

Agricultural Use

Under a Special-Use Permit cattle and crops are now raised on 170 acres of monument land to help retain the farm character of the area. The association also grazes sheep here for the same purpose.

The Historical Base Map should guide the proposed historic living farm restoration, with its appropriate farm buildings, roads, fences, and the growing of

A foreshadow of the living farm, proposed by this plan for the monument.

Potomac River
George Washington Birthplace NM
Approximate location
Maryland
Virginia
Popes Creek
204
3
Ecological study needed on headwaters of Popes Creek

LAND ACQUISITION PLAN

Land needed to complete the National Monument

Land on which use-controls are needed

George Washington Country Parkway (proposed)

Farming is an agreeable use of land bordering the monument.

period crops and the raising of period farm animals by 18th-century methods. This restoration should be restricted to about 20 acres south of the Memorial House, unless research justifies additional sites. Farming of the 170 acres should continue under a Special-Use Permit, unless it conflicts with the living farm.

Historical Collections

There are some 50,000 items in the monument's artifact collection, most of them derived from past archaeological work here. They are stored in the basement of the Memorial House, and a dehumidifying system in the house helps preserve not only them but also the fragile textiles and other furnishings there. A Museum Collections Study needs to be made to identify each object and to furnish management with guidelines as to their usefulness for interpretation.

Fire Control

Although no major fires have occurred since the monument's establishment, a potential hazard exists because so few workers would be available to fight a fire: two, if the fire broke out during working hours; only one or none, if it broke out at any other time. For equipment the staff has only a few small extinguishers, a 75-gallon pumper, garden hoses, backpack pumps, and hand tools until help arrives.

The nearest fire-fighting units are volunteer organizations in Montross and Colonial Beach, each about 12 miles away. The Park Service has no legal agreement with either, but both have cooperated splendidly in the past.

Soybeans, grown on monument land under a special-use permit. This farm setting will be maintained.

To assure public and private assistance in a fire emergency, it is vital that the present level of good relations with our neighbors be maintained. At present only one employee lives in the monument. Three permanent employees should live here to protect the monument adequately.There is also an immediate need to back up the present unreliable telephone service with short-wave radio equipment, tied-in if possible with Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

2. VISITOR USE

Information Services

In summer visitors first meet park personnel at the gate house in the monument circle. During the winter only the Memorial House is manned. At both points guides introduce the visitor to the facilities and the main points of interest at the monument.

The proposed Interpretive Facility will remedy the lack of an effective entrance experience for visitors. It will also fulfill the requirements for a suitable place in which to receive and orient visitors and offer them the personal services they need and have come to expect.

The present entrance station should be eliminated and the entrance road relocated so that visitors proceed directly to the main interpretive point. Fees should be collected at this facility and space made available in it to the Association for their sales operation.

The exercise of use-controls on the land along Va. 204 between the proposed parkway and the monument entrance, as discussed earlier, should assure a

A nature trail, relating natural features to life in colonial times, will take off from this pond near Bridges Creek.

pleasant approach. The Park Service should also acquire administrative control over Va. 204 between that route and the monument.

Interpretive Services

The present interpretive program stresses the Memorial House as an educational exhibit with inspirational overtones and the surrounding grounds as a setting of natural beauty. The program does not offer effective interpretation of either George Washington or his family and regional background. Because of a lack of historical and archeological data, interpretation remains largely memorial in character.

An Interpretive Facility, artfully located to take adantage of the view over Popes Creek without becoming an intrusion in itself, is needed to house this program and a number of related functions. The historical objects associated with the site should be liberally displayed here to lend reality and authenticity to the story.

More and better literature, both sales and free, is needed to interpret important aspects of the Washington-Wakefield story. There is an especial need for children's literature.

Historical Buildings

Interpretation of the Memorial House and the Colonial Kitchen would be greatly improved by completing the furnishing of both buildings with items appropriate to the period and by using better interpretive methods inside. When exhibits are removed from the backroom of the kitchen, this room should be furnished according to recommendations laid down by research studies. Additional interpreters, both seasonal and permanent, will be needed to staff these buildings and to carry out other interpretive functions.

The Historic Grounds

Perhaps the most memorable visitor experience at the monument comes as one stands on the broad front lawn of the house and looks out over a scene remarkably unchanged from Washington's day. The mood generated by this view should be reinforced by skillfully designing a walking tour of the grounds that will emphasize significant features related to the birth and boyhood theme. This tour should incorporate interesting findings from the historical and archeological research, among them important structural ruins, such as "Building X" and ruins at the John Washington and Henry Brooks sites.

The second theme presented on a walking tour should be the story of the operating farm as Washington knew it. Through the reconstruction of working farm buildings, the raising of period crops and livestock, and the demonstration of 18th-century farming methods, it should be possible to create a convincing portrait, in reduced scale, of the Washington farm. To succeed, this effort must be based on wide and deep research.

This theme can be strengthened by laying-out nature-history walks along the Popes Creek shore which will relate natural history features to colonial life and Washington's experiences. It would also be appropriate to interpret the waterfowl present seasonally on nearby waters. A secondary interpretive facility should be developed overlooking Popes Creek for this purpose.

Recreation Activities

Swimming Because nearby Colonial Beach and Westmoreland State Park offer public swimming, boating, and camping facilities, the Park Service has an opportunity here to develop facilities of a quieter and more contemplative nature. Special regulations are needed to prohibit swimming at the monument.

Trails In the past over 2 1/2 miles of foot trails have been built in the monument. They allow visitors to experience a woodlands environment similar to the one George Washington may have known. A system of foot trails should be newly developed to give access to significant natural areas of the monument, including the shore, and to boost such activities as walking, nature observations, and the quiet enjoyment of the land and water.

The study in the Memorial House.

Potomac River
Area proposed for expansion of historic living farm and extension of Potomac Heritage Trail.
23
15
16
17
18
19
Agricultural use by permit
Agricultural use
Washington Family Burial Ground
Agricultural use
Bridges
Creek

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The monument as it will be

private land

facilities to be removed

1. Main interpretive facility.
2. Living farm area.
3. Entrance road.
4. Self-guiding history trail.
5. "Building X," uncovered and stabilized.
6. Colonial Kitchen: furnishing to be completed.
7. Memorial House: furnishing to be completed.
8. Colonial Garden: possibly relocated.
9. Foot bridge
10. Log House: to be rehabilitated.
11. Secondary interpretive facility (theme: seasonal waterfowl).
12. Picnic area.
13. Self-guiding nature trail: to use existing trails.
14. Residences for farm laborers.
15. Self-guiding nature trail: to be developed.
16. Quiet use of Potomac Shore.
17. Interpretation at Henry Brooks house site.
18. Picnic area.
19. Interpretation at Bridges Creek site.
20. Maintenance area.
21. New residence for park employee.
22. Acquire administrative control of Va. 204.
23. Land to be acquired.

Picnicking The picnic area is adequate for the present number of visitors. When the park is fully developed and visits begin to lengthen, the demand for picnicking sites in such an attractive area will undoubtedly rise. Two small picnic areas are recommended, both closely associated with scenic views of the monument's pond and creek environment.

The expected increased use resulting from development and construction of the George Washington Country Parkway may also open the way to offering meal services at the monument. A study of the need and desirability of such service should be made in the future.

Overnight Accommodations

There are camping facilities at Westmoreland State Park and several nearby private sites. If the Potomac Heritage Trail is ever realized, the monument might be a suitable overnight stopping place. But until the trail exists and the need for camping facilities becomes evident, the planning for such facilities should be delayed.

Law Enforcement

The management assistant and his staff are responsible for protecting visitors and the monument's resources and facilities. The Park Service has welcomed the assistance of local and State law enforcement agencies in the past, but these agencies are least able to patrol park roads when visitor use is the heaviest—in summer. The Potomac beach near the burial ground is a trouble spot then. Groups gather to swim and engage in a variety of activities inconsistent with the purposes for which the monument was established. Swimming is permitted only during the day; at night the road beyond the burial ground is closed, but many find it easy to park at the burial ground and walk to the beach. Unless the management assistant patrols this area at night, these activities go on unhindered.

The Potomac shore.

Two general measures will contribute to better law enforcement at the monument: (1) the management assistant and his staff should increase their efforts at traffic control and the regulation of certain improper uses; and (2) more employees should be assigned to live in the monument. To regulate the uses of the shore, the Park Service should (1) control all inholdings; (2) construct a gate across the main park entrance; (3) take out the road leading from the burial ground to the river; and (4) issue special regulations banning swimming in the monument.

3. ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Services

The management assistant, under the supervision of the Superintendent, directs the operations of the National Monument. He schedules, manages, evaluates, and coordinates the work of the monument staff and applies policy directives for the proper conduct of various programs. He participates in long-range management and development planning, in the preparation of Master Plans, and in programming and supervising construction work. An important aspect of his work is the cultivation of good relations with park neighbors and the assorted agencies whose work bears on the monument's activities. He holds membership in or provides liaison with the following groups:
☐ Westmoreland County authorities ☐ Virginia State Police ☐ Colonial Beach Fire Department ☐ Colonial Beach Rescue Squad ☐ Regional Civil Defense

authorities ☐ Dahlgren Naval Proving Grounds ☐ Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation ☐ Wakefield National Memorial Association.

The present lack of adequate office, storage, concession and Post Office space will be remedied when the proposed Interpretive Facility is built. When a number of proposed programs get underway, such as the 18th-century farm, a management appraisal should be conducted to determine whether more administrative responsibilities should be assigned to the park staff.

Maintenance of Facilities

Maintenance in the National Monument is a steadily expanding operation. There are 4.5 miles of roads, 2.59 miles of trails, numerous signs, markers, and fences, a colonial-period garden, and some two dozen buildings, most built during the 1930's. As could be expected, age, weather, and termites have taken a toll of the monument's facilities.

Maintenance operations are now inadequately housed and staffed. These are the requirements for an effective maintenance program for the immediate future:
(1) The existing maintenance area should be removed and new facilities (both storage and work space) built at a place outside the important historical zones.
(2) More maintenance workers are needed to meet the increasing responsibilities that will be imposed by development.
(3) Archeological investigations should precede any construction project to avoid damaging or covering up valuable ruins or sites.
(4) To avoid unnecessary road construction, historic farm roads, restored as part of the living farm, can be used to bring essential maintenance services to the farm complex.

Staff Housing

There are two residences in the monument now, both in good condition. The rest of the staff live in the nearby community.

One additional residence is needed in the monument to provide protection at night and when the management assistant is away. The operation of the living farm may make it necessary to provide quarters for some farm employees. Temporary seasonal housing will also be available through conversion of the Log Tea Room for this purpose.

Organization

Staff increases are needed for the following functions:

Office of Management Assistant

To provide part-time clerical help to the management assistant.

Visitor Services

To man the proposed Interpretive Facility.

To provide effective on-site supervision of the interpretive program.

To guide programs dealing with the management of historical, natural, and archeological resources.

To give more effective 24-hour protection to resources and visitors now and to meet increasing responsibilities as development of the monument proceeds.

To provide improved informational and interpretive services on the grounds during the travel season, especially at the living farm and along the shore.

Maintenance

To maintain the proposed Interpretive Facility.

To maintain an expanded system of roads and trails.

To maintain the several staff facilities proposed by this master plan, including residences.

To operate and maintain the living farm all year.

Concessions

The Wakefield National Memorial Association, the authorized concessioner, sells boxwood slips, mementos, and interpretive literature. Their facilities for sales and storage are sadly inadequate.

The Interpretive Facility should be planned to provide suitable space for the association to carry on its activities. The association should be encouraged to expand its sales operation to include new interpretive publications and the commodities produced by the living farm.

The Department of the Interior—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—works to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

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